SOME PUMPKINS

SOMEWHERE down the road the engine stopped to get a drink. There was nothing in it for the passengers, the day being Sunday and the lid well clamped down, even in the Ozark country, where the moon is said to shine in the darkness occasionally. Nevertheless the passengers got something worth while stopping for. What they got was a picture. It was a simple composition with a background of crimson autumnal foliage, a weather-stained log house in the middle distance, well screened in woodbine and trumpet creeper, the frost-nipped remains of an old-fashioned garden and —right in the middle foreground, not a stone's throw from the track—the solitary figure. He stood beside the squat gatepost, just as if he had been painted there a good half century ago, a cob pipe in his mouth and a somewhat tattered straw hat pushed well back from his florid brow and straight gray hair. His lean arms embraced, as far as human arms could reach, a mammoth pumpkin that reposed on the gatepost, and into the side of the yellow rind he had cut, "Prize-winner, 216 pd."

"I thought he'd be there," one of the passengers laughed. "He hasn't done a thing but flaunt that pumpkin at the passengers the past four days since he got it back from the county fair. You know it isn't easy to raise big fellows like that in these Ozark hills. It takes rich bottom soil to make 'em grow to any considerable size, and the Ozark farmer needs his little bottom patches for something besides show fruit. That old chap got some of the best pumpkin seed that ever was brought into market and he's been at 'em ever since.

That 216-pounder did actually capture the prize in a certain Missouri county, but there was a pumpkin shown at the Merchants' Exchange in St. Louis that would have broken the old Ozark farmer's heart. It was the great achievement of Tom Powell, who has been raising big pumpkins a good many years and who supplied the seed from which that one great hill pumpkin was developed. It took a three-horse team to haul thirty pumpkins to St. Louis for the display. The combined weight of the load, exclusive of the wagon and driver, was something over 5,000 pounds, and the largest of the pumpkins tipped the beam at 237, the heaviest pumpkin ever brought to St. Louis. It was converted into 160 succulent pies.

The demand for pumpkin has not increased in proportion to the population's increase. In the days of our grandmothers canned things were almost unknown. And there was the tradition that in the fall, from the middle of October to Christmas, there must be a long row of pumpkin pies on the pantry shelf every Saturday night. For a moderate-sized family ten pies would suffice, but there was many a housewife who made her tired boast, "I've baked two dozen this morning, and I do hope there will be enough left for Monday dinner."

In the old days, the pumpkin was put to another use. It was the basis for a very delicious soup—strange as this may seem. Even now in the markets of Paris there is the custom of crowning King Pumpkin the last Saturday in September. The largest and shapeliest is elected king, and there is a regular ceremonial, an hour of the afternoon being given up to the parade through stalls and adjoining streets of the market, the trades people in costume and the pumpkin adorned with a gorgeous crown of tinsel and imitation jewels. When the parade is over the fruit is uncrowned, cut into sections and these auctioned off to the highest bidder, to be taken home and made up into soup.

Long before the Thanksgiving season of pie baking, many pumpkins have been diverted from their normal purpose of food and have served the merrymakers at Hallowe'en, made over into jack-o'-lanterns, with grinning or sorrowful countenances.

Centuries ago in Europe there was another kind of jack-o'-lantern, the marsh fire or will-o'-the-wisp, elf-fire or whatever you wish to call it, that was frequently seen in low, marshy places at night, flitting about like tiny lanterns in the gloom. When these phosphorescent lights appeared at the time of All Saints' day they were said to be the souls of sinners that had escaped from purgatory and returned to earth to beg their former friends to pray for the remission of their sins. Whether the pumpkin imitation of the marsh light originated among the peasants of Italy or the negroes of our own southern states, is still a mooted question. At first they were all sorrowful faces, befitting the counterpart of the soul that is suffering the consequences of a wicked life. But once upon a time an embryo sculptor made a mistake in the carving of a pumpkin mouth, causing the corners to turn up instead of down, and the effect was so jolly and comical that all who saw this spirit came to the conclusion that either the sins had been forgiven or the gate to purgatory had been slammed in his face and he need not return. Since that time it has been assumed by the Halloween hostess that sins are actually pardoned and departed spirits are happy, for the round, rather flat pumpkin that can be made to grin is the one most in demand.

Italy lays claim to the origin of the jack-o'-lantern and some time ago the botanists of Europe laid entire claim to the pumpkin itself, asserting that it was an imported product in America. This libel was given the lie in a little while by the American, who was

In the Pumpkin Field.

in no humor to be robbed of his annual Thanksgiving pie. Pumpkins were grown in the rich alluvial soil along the Missouri river long before the white man invaded the interior of the continent, and in the cliff dwellings of Mancos Canyon, Ohio, that were abandoned even before the coming of Columbus, perfectly preserved pumpkin seeds have been found by the excavators, in hermetically sealed jars. This fact is of no particular interest to any but the botanist, and the archaeoligist; yet it is a source of gratification to us to know that we can eat our national pie without returning thanks to any other country than our own.

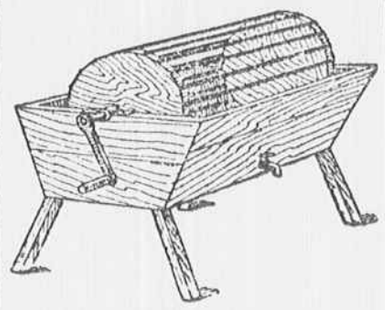
FARM AND GARDEN

VEGETABLE WASHER IS BEST

Quite a Job to Do This Work by Hand —Machine Does It Easily and Rapidly.

Vegetables bring a much better price if they are clean when offered for sale. It is quite a job to do this work by hand but if a machine like the one shown in the drawing is constructed it can be done very easily and rapidly, writes J. J. Tulare in Farm and Home.

A cylinder made of two round board



Easily Operated Potato Cleaner.

ends connected by heavy wires is mounted in a water tight box. This cylinder is run by a small handle.

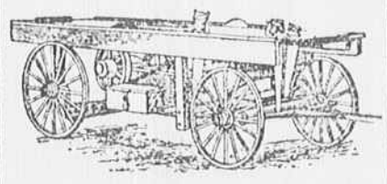
The vegetables are put inside the cylinder and the tank filled with water. The handle is turned and the dirt is very quickly washed off.

The cylinder is made so as to be easily removed from the tank for cleaning. Two or three of the wires must be so arranged that they can be loosened easily for putting the vegetables in and taking them out.

PUTS WORKBENCH ON WHEELS

Can Be Drawn by Horse or Hitched to Another Vehicle—Gasoline Engine Is Attached.

The accompanying sketch shows how I made a handy workbench on wheels, which can be drawn by a horse or hitched on behind another vehicle and taken out on a job of work, says a writer in Popular Mechanics. A small gasoline engine hung on supports beneath the bench runs a circular saw,



Workbench on Wheels.

A place is provided for all tools necessary to be used on any one job.

CARE OF FARM WORK HORSES

Animals Should Be Pampered and Fed Generously to Sustain Vigor and Good Spirits.

Horses employed for farm work should be pampered and should be fed generously so as to sustain vigor and good spirits. A team ill-fed and consequently in poor condition and feeble will not accomplish much real hard work and it is a waste of time to hire an expensive hand to drive such a team.

The harness, and particularly the collar, should be accurately adjusted to the horse. If the collar is either too tight or too loose it galls him and seriously affects his breathing.

The work horses should be fed early in the morning and they should have a liberal feeding. The comfort and rest of the team will be vastly promoted if the harness is entirely removed at noon while they are feeding. Allow them plenty of time for a good meal and partial digestion before they are put to work for the afternoon. It is poor policy to put them to work right after eating a hearty meal or upon a full stomach.

If we would allow the teams more rest at noon we would accomplish more work than when they are only allowed time to swallow their food. At evening let them be well groomed and their legs and bellies relieved of mud and filth.

The practise of many farmers of driving a team through cold water to wash the filth off their feet and legs is dangerous, as it causes many diseases that they are subject to.

A warm or overheated team should not be put in a cold, airy place, but first exercised and then blanketed and put in a warm stable and after the blankets are removed they should be wiped dry with straw or cloths.

When a team has been exposed to rains they should not be left to become dry, but should be rubbed dry, as chills, fevers and other ailments often result from allowing them to dry by the evaporation of the moisture from their bodies.

Grass Lands In Grain.

Humus-making crops are such grasses as timothy, clover, blue grass, brome grass and alfalfa. It has been found grass land plowed is under better conditions of moisture and freer from weeds than land that has grown grain continuously.

LOSS IN HANDLING MANURE

Much of Good Qualities Lost by Exposure to Elements for Period of Four Months.

(By ANTON C. WAGNER.)

One of our experimental stations has shown by careful investigation that when the stable manure is piled up and left exposed to the rains the loss from leaching of the fertile elements is very large. The New Jersey station finds that manure exposed for 100 days lost over one-half of the nitrogen, one-half of the phosphoric acid, the same proportion of the potassium had been lost. More than one-half of the constituents had been lost by an exposure of less than four months. Work from other experiment stations confirms this.

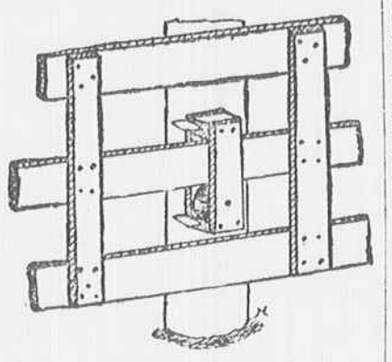
A great deal of valuable manure is also lost in badly arranged stables, where there are poor facilities for recovering the manure. The valuable liquid manure is lost by drainage.

The best way to save all the fertile elements in manure is to haul it on the fields and meadows and spread it evenly over the land. Washed into the soil it is preserved for the next crop.

EASY WORKING GATE HANGER

Discarded Wheel From Cultivator or Pulley May Be Utilized—Simple of Construction.

Any old pulley or cultivator wheel may be utilized as an easy working hanger for your farm gates, with but a few moments' time to construct. The two sides of hanger are cut long enough so they will allow ample space for the two ends of hanger, the wheel and the one board of gate, as shown in illustration. Make the two ends



The Gate Hanger.

or spreaders the width of the pulley or wheel, and after boring holes for the bolt to hold pulley in place in the sides of hanger nail together as illustrated. Fasten same to the gate post with two strap hinges at ends of hanger, which allow the gate to be swung to one side, as well as pushed back.

The gate is hung by leaving off the center board and placing it through hanger, then nailing to the cross-pieces of gate.

Saving the Value of Manure.

Hauling manure directly to the field as soon as made and scattering it is the safest method of handling. By this method nothing is lost by fermentation and very little by bleaching. When the manure is plowed under the fermentation takes place slowly, and no nitrogen is lost. The carbon dioxide and acids produced unite with the other elements in the soil and result in more plant food being made available. All the organic matter is saved for humus in the soil.

Making Mulch of Litter.

Don't burn up any kind of coarse litter that accumulates around the feedyard, but save to mulch different plants in the garden. If some manure is mixed with the litter, so much the better. Such mulch will make melons, cucumbers and many other plants bear more heavily and will save cultivation after they are well started.

FARM NOTES

Don't depend upon the frost-bitten pasture; there is nothing in it.

A little neglect at this time of year may start a long winter of loss.

The pinch of a frosty night will make a big hole in the pocketbook.

Store the ladders under cover, but give them a good coat of paint first.

A bolt through a weak tree crotch may save a split tree—if applied in time.

A piece of zinc put on the live coals in the stove will clean out the stovepipe.

A hard collar is not as hard upon the shoulders of a horse as one that is unevenly padded.

An extra feed increases growth, if of a suitable kind, and makes larger animals at maturity.

Banana oil, applied to any metal surface with a soft brush, is an excellent rust preventive.

Bring the cultivator in when the first row has been cleaned out. No time like the new-time for that.

Fall plowing helps to destroy the grasshopper broods that otherwise would do damage another season.

As soon as the late frosts have killed all the plants, take them up and burn them to destroy as many insects as possible.

The value of any fertilizer depends upon what it is made of. It cannot furnish food to crops unless it has the food to furnish.

IN VOGUE

NEW STREET SUITS

COSTUMES SO DRESSY THEY ARE EASILY TRANSFORMED.

These Tailor-Made Gowns Must Be Kept Pressed and Clean—Skirts, Gloves and Wraps That Are Suitable.

It is impossible to overestimate the importance of a stylish street suit, for if one is supplied with this she can do without many grander gowns. Then, so dressy are the new trottoir suits that the least change of accessories will smarten up a practical dress for very nearly every day use required by persons of moderate means—another sort of hat, white gloves, a fixier waist, and trim new boots at once turning the plain garment into a finer thing.

But one thing is absolutely required for a good effect with all tailor gowns nowadays. The suit must be kept pressed and free of spots. The moment there is a used and crumpled look style is gone. The up-to-date woman is a creature of bankbox neatness, and she who is used to tailor costumes knows that extreme freshness is more than half their charm. In themselves the dinky little jackets and narrow skirts that make up the combinations are not becoming. They must be set off with this almost fragrant neatness and with the most coquettish accessories to give their wearers the "pretty" look. The tailor gown must also fit to perfection and not look as though there were an inch too much cloth in the composition. Good tailoring is involved, a faultless corset, and, incidentally, a good figure and a soft silk petticoat.

Modish gloves for the walking suit are heavy tailored affairs of white, or yellow, or black dogskin. The round turban has precedence over brim hats for millinery that goes with such suits, but many charming hats with flaring basket brims, or quite wide flattish ones, will be worn by the younger ladies. The skittishness of one's millinery and the shortness of the skirt, are matters entirely of age and bulk. If one has reached the dignified age, or is heavy about the hips and bust, these new kinks are only ridiculous.

Our picture shows a wrap that might well be the winter coat of the elderly lady of dressy tastes, and it would be just the thing for the young matron's maternity covering. As pictured, the coat is of smoky violet cloth with a collar of moire trimmed with a chenille cord and velvet stole ends in a deeper color. The folds at the front of the coat, and the inverted plait at the back, make this garment

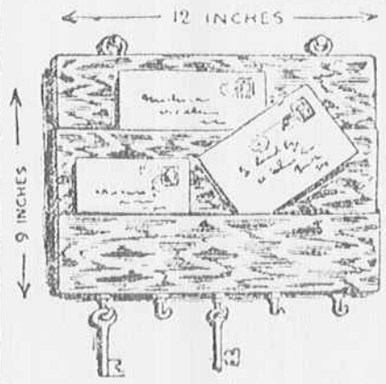
one of especial excellence for the older woman who hates the tight things or the young matron who must have a loose garment; and for either of these wearers there could be no better choice of material than black broadcloth, with a plaited skirt in matching material. Black ottoman silk, interlined, and made with a velvet or heavy lace collar, would be another good choice, and such a coat, except in the coldest weather, could go with any gown.

RACK FOR LETTERS AND KEYS

Practical and Useful Contrivance That Can Be Made With Little Trouble and Expense.

A practical and useful rack for letters and keys, for hanging in the hall, is shown in the accompanying sketch, and it can be made with very little trouble and at a small cost.

A piece of smooth board about 12 by 9 inches and a half inch in thickness, should be procured. This is covered with silk, folded in the way indicated in the sketch, so that it forms two pockets, into which the letters may be slipped. The silk is fastened



on at the back of the board with tiny nails or small tacks, and the folds should be drawn as tightly and flatly across the surface of the board as possible. In the upper edge two small brass rings (rings similar to those used for hanging up small pictures will answer the purpose) are screwed, by which the rack may be suspended from the wall. In the lower edge five little brass hooks are screwed, upon which the keys may be hung. To finish off the rack, a silk cord, carried into three little loops at each corner, may be sewn, and a rack can, of course, be made in the same way in a larger or small size, to suit requirements.

The Empire Redingote.

The long redingote in velvet and fur is very rich and graceful, and the long, picturesque lines of the Josephine gown are adopted almost to the exclusion of other models by some conturieres. These gowns are enhanced by boleros and deep collars of satin and fur. Princess gowns made in the new heavy wool-backed satins in dull, dead color, edged with sable or chinchilla, are stunning. This new make of satin is also ideal for evening wraps.

KNITTED COSTUMES LIKED

Paris Takes Up Their Vogue and Some Very Attractive Garments Have Been Designed There.

Paris has taken up the vogue of knitted goods, and takes it up with a will. The latest fancy is the three-piece costume, consisting of cap, gloves and sweater coat. This is intended primarily for skating, etc., but will be worn this winter even on the street. The coats are very long, with deep pockets and with leather revers and turnback cuffs.

Among caps, there are the tam-o'-shanter and the capuchon types, the latter buttoning in front and having a warm little cape that fits about the neck and shoulders.

Even knitted skirts are not unknown, and are a joy forever to the happy autumn golfer. All these garments are made to fit rather snugly, and do not require belts or any other form of extra fastening. Gray, white, brown and green are the favorite colors.

If you know how to knit, or can learn how, here is the way to make yourself a pretty and fashionable set for winter that will be warmth itself when warmth is most desired.

Play Aprons.

A novel idea in play aprons for children, which will keep them busy through much of a rainy day, is to make them of red or other bright-colored cambric and paste upon them pictures representing nursery rhymes. Sometimes these pictures can be bought printed on fabric, which can then be made up into aprons; or they can be fastened upon the cambric by means of decalcomanias. If each child has two or three "story aprons" of this sort, made so as to cover the dress, all over, there will be peace in the nursery on stormy days.

In all work of this sort it is really important to remember the nerves of the sensitive child, and not to imprint pictures, such as some of those from "Little Red Ridinghood" or "Bluebeard," that will frighten instead of amuse the little one.

Cap Strings.

The careful mother always makes several pairs of strings for baby's cap. These she hems at their unfinished ends after their embroidered ends are worked.

They are not sewed to the cap, but are pinned to its sides with small gold safety pins, so that they are removable after each wearing. In no other way may the baby be kept immaculate.